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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Samuel H. Christie

Serial No. 09/102,016

Filed: 06/22/1998

For: TREATMENTS IN A DISTRIBUTED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Examiner: Boakye, A

Art Unit: 2663

Commissioner for Patents

Box AF

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

The present response supplements the response originally filed 07 January 2002 and resubmitted by fax 15 March 2002. If any fees are required in association with this response, the Director is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account 50-1732, and consider this a petition therefor.

REMARKS

Applicant herewith submits a declaration from the inventor under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 showing proof of conception of the present invention at least as early as August 1997. This effectively removes Norman and several other references from the pool of available prior art.

Applicant maintains that this declaration is timely filed and does not require an extension of time fee. The Final Office Action was mailed 05 November 2001. A response was mailed with the appropriate certificate of mailing on 07 January 2002, the Monday following 05 January 2002 (a Saturday). This response was received by the Patent Office on 29 January 2002 as evidenced by a stamped postcard returned from the Patent Office. Thus the present application falls within the 2-month rule for responding to Final Office Actions, and the period for responding is extended to the mailing of the Advisory Action. As no Advisory Action has been mailed, the period for reply has not expired and no extensions of time are due. If however, an extension of time is required, the above authorization is provided.

Applicant appreciates the time of the Examiner on 15 March 2002 when the Examiner indicated that no response had been received in the Patent Office. Applicant faxed the original response on 15 March 2002 along with a copy of the postcard showing receipt at least as of 29 January 2002. If further proof is required, or a formal petition is required, Applicant requests

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Adjustment date: 07/09/2002 HGORDON
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OK TO ENTER AB 4/13/02